

Inquiry into Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Victoria

Ms Jane Glover

Organisation Name:
Your position or role:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

An important part of the issue of air quality, is also residential health and wellbeing.

A total *ban* on wood/coal burning house heaters in built-up suburbia, would solve this issue very simply.

I have Asthma and am a f/t live-in Carer for my now nearly 90 year old War Widow mother, with multiple medical conditions, in her own home.

Every Winter we become captives in our own home. This is due to our immediate rear neighbour's wood-burning house heater which goes on from late afternoon on weekdays and nearly all day and night on weekends.

The soot, pollution and nauseating stench flows from their roof chimney, billows directly into our small backyard and seeps through the gaps and cracks in our 100 year old home for hours, causing the back rooms of the house to reek of it.

My elderly mother likes to sit in her comfy chair in the back sunroom when she's up, she is crippled with Arthritis and thats as far as she can go nowadays.

She has the right to access clean fresh air in her own home, but i dare not open a window even a crack, as id only be filling the room with even more toxic fumes than already seeps in.

Any washing i put out on the line in Winter, comes in reeking of their toxic stench but as we are only Pensioners, we cannot afford to use the clothes-dryer for more than the occasional emergency.

If i return too late from walking to the shops for essentials, i can smell that foul polluting smoke even as i approach my street, from 2-3 streets back, but by the time i reach the front door im literally and painfully choking on it.

Same if i dont get the rubbish bins out early, im choking on their pollution for the entire task.

I was forced to report it to my local Council in 2019, when one of my neighbours was at home on weekdays for a week, and started their 'pollutionator' from each midday on, trapping me indoors and unable to leave or put out any rubbish or washing (its that bad) at all.

Even with advocacy and reasoning from a kind and environmentally concerned councilor, my neighbours still have this filthy polluting heater and i yet again am absolutely dreading the onset of Winter for this main reason.

WHY are wood/coal burning home heaters even necessary in built-up suburbia? In the rural areas i can understand the need, but why here?? There are so many other, cleaner and healthier home-heating choices available in suburbia.

We have NO *choice* however, about the absolute human need, to breathe clean air.

There is enough air-filth generated by all the traffic on nearby roads, why do we need to be exposed to even more, by the personal *choice* of uncaring neighbours/residents, too?

Please BAN ALL wood/coal burning house heaters in built-up suburban zones.

Please stop this manifestly unnecessary extra air-pollution being pumped into our suburbs and lungs, every single Winter.

PLEASE let us BREATHE!

Thanking you with a small spark of hope in my heart, and lungs.

J Glover.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Confidentiality:

{Confidential1:value}

Signature:

Jane Glover